Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented and user interactive method for brokering upgraded resources that provides greater software product functionality comprising the steps of:

providing a computer system that includes a software product that initially provides to the user a subset of software product functionality from a set of locally available functions,

collecting usage data describing user interaction with the subset of software product functionality,

automatically analyzing automatically said usage data within the computer system to determine whether identify at least one usage data pattern has been identified, and

based on an identified usage data pattern, initiating[[, by]] a local communication from the computer system to a user of the computer system, communication with alerting the user [[of]] to an availability of product functionality that can be perceived by the user and that is within the set of locally available functions, but not within the subset of software product functionality when said at least one usage data pattern has been was identified.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of collecting interval of use data for said software product.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of collecting statistical data regarding use of said software product.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of collecting demographic data regarding said user.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of collecting geographic data regarding said user.

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6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing automatically comprises the step of determining whether any threshold has been satisfied by said collected data.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing comprises the step of applying a fuzzy algorithm to said collected data to determine whether a said data pattern can be identified.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said initiating step comprises using the computer system to interactively communicate with said user.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said initiating step further comprises interactively communicating by voice with said user.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said initiating step further comprises interactively communicating by a visual mechanism and a tactile response mechanism with said user.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of collecting data from a group of users,

     collecting user decisions from the group of users, and

     determining when to offer greater software product functionality to at least one user based upon at least group user data and decisions.

12. (currently amended) A computer implemented and user interactive method for brokering upgraded functionality in a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system comprising the steps of :

     providing a computer system that includes a personal assistant system software product that initially provides to the user a subset of software product functionality from a set of <u>locally</u> available functions,

     collecting <u>usage</u> data describing user interaction with the subset of software product functionality,

     <u>automatically</u> analyzing ~~automatically~~ said <u>usage</u> data <u>within the computer system</u> to

determine whether identify at least one usage data pattern has been identified, and

based on an identified usage data pattern, initiating[[, by]] a local communication from the personal assistant system to a user of the personal assistant system, communication with alerting the user [[of]] to an availability of product functionality that is within the set of locally available functions, but not within the subset of software product functionality when said at least one usage data pattern has been was identified.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said analyzing step further comprises the step of identifying a data pattern when at least one user threshold has been satisfied.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of collecting data from a group of users,

collecting user upgrade decisions from at least a portion of the group, and

determining when to offer said upgraded functionality to a user based upon at least group response data and decisions.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein said initiating step further comprises

verbally and interactively making an offer, by said system, to said user for greater functionality in using said system.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said making step comprises interactively presenting said offer, by said system, for greater functionality in the context of a new message.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of offering greater functionality by the system to the user in multiple steps dependent at least upon said data patterns.

18. (currently amended) A computer implemented and user interactive method for brokering upgraded resources that provides greater software product functionality comprising the steps of :

providing a computer system that includes a software product that initially provides to the user a subset of software product functionality from a set of locally available functions,

collecting ~~use~~ usage data describing use of the subset of software product functionality,

automatically analyzing ~~automatically by the computer~~ said usage data within the computer system to ~~determine~~ identify whether at least one ~~use~~ usage threshold has been satisfied, and

based on an identified usage threshold, initiating[[, by]] a local communication from the computer system to a user of the computer system, ~~communication with~~ alerting the user [[of]] to an availability of product functionality ~~that can be perceived by the user and~~ that is within the set of locally available functions, but not within the subset of software product functionality when said at least one usage threshold ~~has been~~ was satisfied.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said collecting step comprises collecting interval of use data for said product.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said collecting step comprises collecting statistical data regarding use of said product.

21. (currently amended) A method for brokering upgraded functionality in a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system for enabling greater functionality for a product function in said system comprising the steps of :

providing a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system that includes a software product that ~~initially~~ provides to the user [[a]] an activated subset of software product functionality from a larger set of software product functionality, the subset and activated subset both being initially provided locally on the system without needing to download or add functions or instructions from an external computer, but only the subset of activated functions being immediately usable by the user,

collecting ~~use~~ usage data describing use of said activated subset of product ~~function from a set of available functions~~ functions,

automatically analyzing ~~automatically~~ said usage data to determine whether at least one ~~use~~ usage threshold has been exceeded, and

based on an identified usage threshold, initiating[[, by]] a local communication from the

voice responsive telephone personal assistant system to a user of the system, ~~communication with~~ alerting the user [[of]] to an availability of product functionality that can be audibly perceived by the user and that is within the larger set of locally available functions, but not within the subset of software product functionality when said at least one threshold has been satisfied.

22. (currently amended) A computer ~~implemented~~ apparatus for brokering upgraded resources for enabling greater functionality for a product function comprising :

means for providing to a user a subset of functionality of a software product from a greater set of preinstalled available functions provided locally on the apparatus without needing to download or add functions or instructions from an external computer,

means for collecting ~~use~~ usage data describing user interaction with said product function,

means for automatically analyzing ~~automatically~~ said ~~use~~ usage data for determining whether at least one usage data pattern has been identified, and

means for initiating, by the apparatus and based on said usage data pattern, a local communication ~~with~~ from the apparatus to a user of the apparatus, indicating ~~said product function~~ an availability of said greater functionality within the set of locally available functions, but not within the subset of software product functionality when said at least one usage data pattern has been identified.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said collecting means collects interval of use data for said product function.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said collecting means collects statistical data regarding use of said product.

25-30. (canceled)